care facilities. However, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is implementing a scheme under which financial assistance to a maximum of Rs. 1.5 crores to the States/Union Territories is provided for upgradation and strefigthening of emergency facilities in the Government Hospitals located on National Highways.

In Central Gvoernment Hospitals, adequate facilities in the form of casualty/emergency services are available for attending to patients requiring trauma care.

Toxicant in drinking water

†4723. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the report of World Halth Organisation high contents of SNKHIYA (toxicant) beyond its limit has been found in potable water of some States;

(b) whether 8 districts of the West Bengal and 200 villages of Bihar are badly affected with the same;

(c) whether 45 lakh people of West Bengal are compelled to drink such toxicant water;

(d) the action Government are taking in the matter of higher content of SANKHIYA (toxicant) in potable water; and

(e) number of States where potable water doesn't comply with the health standards alongwith the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (e) There is no authentic information reported by WHO of high contents of SANKHIYA (toxicant) beyond its limits found in potable water. However, as per water quality survey ordered by Govt. of India the following States have reported occurrence of arsenic in drinking water sources as per details given below:—

1. Bihar	—	45 habitations
2. Chhattisgarh	—	11 habitations
3. West Bengal	—	4973 habitations
TOTAL :	—	5029 habitations

Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) & (c) 8 districts of West Bengal affected with arsenic contamination have been confirmed by the State Government. Regarding Bihar there is no information about 200 villages effected bv arsenic contamination.

(d) Action taken by Govt. of India is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement-I

Water quality affected habitations reported by States (as on 31-03-2004)
(On the basis of survey ordered in March 2000)

S.No.	State/UT	Habitations Affected by						
		Fluoide	Salinity	Iron	Arsenic	Nitrate	Multiple	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	3072	973	5	0	0	0	4050
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	7585	0	0	534	8119
4	Bihar	43	0	629	45	50	9	776
5	Chattisgarh	17	61	4932	11	0	0	5021
6	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat	4341	2575	0	0	1336	465	8717
8.	Haryana	144	72	0	0	0	145	361
9.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.	Jharkhand	15	0	113	0	1	39	168
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	49	0	0	0	49
12.	Karnataka	5838	4460	6633	0	4077	0	21008
13.	Kerala	34	86	564	0	78	105	867
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3764	604	856	0	0	157	5381
15.	Maharashtra	800	2077	196	0	296	418	3787
16.	Manipur	0	0	37	0	0	0	37
17	Megnalaya	0	0	160	0	0	0	160
18.	Mizoram	0	0	26	0	0	0	26
19.	Nagaland	0	0	157	0	0	0	157
20.	Orissa	504	771	30979	0	0	0	32254
21	Punjab	613	1291	189	0	0	0	2093
22.	Rajasthan	8992	5428	131	0	7882	18639	41072
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamilnadu	737	674	1058	0	237	2868	5574
25.	Tripura	0	0	6850	0	0	181	7031
26.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1046	295	2198	0	1	1522	5062
28.	West Bengal	1346	4126	54711	4973	0	0	65156
29.	A & N Islands	0	0	16	0	0	10	26
30.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0	2	14	0	0	0	16
35.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	31306	23495	118088	5029	13958	25092	216968

Statement-II

Action taken Report

Rural Drinking Water supply is a State subject. Government of India introduced the centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) in 1972-1973 to accelerate coverage of problem villages by rendering financial and technical assistance to States. The entire programme was given a mission approach when the National Drinking Water Mission (NDWM) was set up in 1986. NDWM was renamed as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) in 1991.

2. The primary objective of RGNDWM was to improve the performance and cost effectiveness of the on-going programmes in the field of rural drinking water supply and sanitation and help ensure availability of adequate quanity of drinking water of acceptable quality on a long-term basis.

3. Rural Drinking Water Supply is largely dependent on ground water (85%). Though ground water is less susceptible to pollution as compared to surface water, it is affected by the composition of eath's crust. Leaching action of the Arsenic bearing rocks at some places leads to occurrence of Arsenic in ground water.

4. Contamination of ground water with Arsenic was first noticed in 6 districts in West Bengal in the early 1980s. The first attempt to tackle the problem was made in 1988 by sanctioning an investigative study under the R&D programmes. Thereafter, several R&D projects as well as field-oriented programmes were sanctioned in the Arsenic affected areas.

5. At the instance of RGNDWM, the States carried out a survey of quality-affected habitations in 1991 based on 1% random sampling. As per results of this survey, 3,133 habitations in West Bengal were found to be affected with arsenic contamination. Another survey in 2 phases was ordered in the year 2000, based on 5 to 10% stratified sampling of sources in each Block in Phase-I, followed by Phase-II in which 100% testing of sources was done in the Blocks where quality affected sources were found in the Phase I. The West Bengal government has reported 4,973 habitations affected with arsenic contamination in 75 blocks in 8 districts, namely, 24 Parganas South, 24 Parganas North, Malda, Nadia, Bardawan, Murshidabad, Hoogly and Howrah. The total population at risk in these 75 blocks of 8 districts is estimated as 16 million.

6. Among the various techniques developed for removal of arsenic, two methods, *viz.*, (i) Co-precipitation technique and (ii) Absorption technique, are the most common. The PHED, Government of West Bengal and other organization like. All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (AIIH&PH), Calcutta and Bengal College of Engineering, Howrah have also installed arsenic removal plants in the Arsenic affected aeras of the State. Besides, Domestic filters have also been developed by these organizations. A programme of Water Quality Monitoring an Surveillance was also launched by RGNDWM by initially setting up State and District level Water Quality Testing laboratories to ensure providing safe drinking water by the State Governments and generate awareness about water quality among rural masses. 17 district laboratories were sanctioned by RGNDWM for West Bengal, out of which 13 were established. In the remaining 6 districts, the State Government established laboratories from their own sources. One Mobile laboratory was also sanctioned by RGNDWM and delivered to West Bengal Government.

7. Helping State Governments to tackle water-quality problems in the rural areas is one of the objectives of the RGNDWM. Sub-mission programmes were introduced in 1992-93 to tackle water quality and sustainability problems. The funding pattern was 75:25 between Centre and State. Under the Sub-mission programme for control of Arsenic, four projects proposed by the State Government were sanctioned during 1994-98 for West Bengal by RGNDWM. The West Bengal Government implemented these projects. The details of four pré 1998 Arsenic control projects sanctioned, were as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Project	Project Sanction Year	Approved Cost	GOI's Commit-ment	Funds released by GOI	Remarks
1.	1st Phase Action Plan (replacement of spot sources in arsenic free aquifers in 6 districts of West Bengal)	94-95	858.33	643.75	643.75	Scheme Completed. Population covered = 3.7 lakh
2.	Surface Water based water supply scheme for arsenic affected areas of Malda district	94.95	8848.00	6636.00	6632.82	Scheme completed. Population covered = 2.89 lakh

S. No.	Project	Project Sanction Year	Approved Cost	GOI's Commit-ment	Funds released by GOI	Remarks
3.	Surface Water based Water Supply Scheme for arsenic affected areas of South-24 Paraganas district	96-97	15353.00	11515	11515	Scheme Completed. Pupulation covered = 14.46 lakh
4	2nd Phase Action Plan (Piped water supply schemes and replacement of spot sources in arsenic free aquifers in West Bengal)	97-98	1777 56	1333.17	1326 45	Scheme Completed. population covered = 2.78 lakh
	TOTAL:	26836 89	20127 92	20118 02		

8. Helping State Governments to tackle water quality problems continues to be one of the objectives of the RGNDWM. With effect from 1.4.1998, full powers have been delegated to the State Governments for sanctioning projects under the Sub-mission programmes for trackling water quality problems. The funding pattern between Centre and State is 75:25. 15% of annual funds allotted to State Government under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) are earmarked for tackling water quality problems. Year-wise details of allocation of ARWSP funds during the last 6 years to West Bengal are given below. 15% of these funds were to be utilized for tackling water quality problems, including Arsenic control.

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Year-wise ARWSP fund releases to West Bengal							Total
	1998-99	99-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
1.	6426.91	5606.45	7837.31	8947.63	10115.00	6827.00	5379.00*	45760.30

*Allocation for 2004-2005 is Rs. 8527.00 lakh

9. The details of these Post-1998 Sub-mission projects sanctioned by the State are as tabulated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Project	Project Sanction Year	Approved Cost	GOI's Commit-ment	Remarks
1.	Surface Water based Water supply scheme for arsenic affected areas of North-24 Paraganas	2000-01	12482 00	9361.50	Ongoing
2.	Ground water Project for Nadia/ Murshidabad districts	2002-03	1176 00	882.00	Ongoing
3.	Surface Water based Water supply scheme for arsenic affected areas of Mahyampur	2002-03	654.31	490.73	Ongoing
	TOTAL:		14312.31	10734.23	

10. State Government of West Bengal have also installed 2,338 handpump attached arsenic removal plants in 5 affected districts as per following break-up:

District	No. of handpump fitted arsenic removal plants installed as on 31.3.2004
Malda	191
Murshidabad	1129
Nadia	220
North 24 Paraganas	698
South 24 Paraganas	100
TOTAL :	2338

11. As reported by the West Bengal Government, out of the 4973 Arsenic affected habitations confirmed so far, mitigation measures have been taken up in 3404 habitations (68.45%).

12. State Government of West Bengal recently submitted 6 surface water based schemes for in arsenic affected areas at a total outlay of Rs. 1166 crore. Government of India supports the efforts of the States by releasing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme as per the following criterion for inter-State allocation:

	Weightage for	Percentage (%)
(a)	Rural Population	40
(b)	States under DDP, DPAP, HADP and special category hill States in terms of rural areas	35
(c)	Not Covered/Partially Covered villages (at 2:1 ratio)	15
(d)	Quality affected villages	10
	TOTAL :	100

Individual rural water supply schemes are planned and implemented by the State Governments themselves and ARWSP funds are not released by the Central Government for specific projects of any State. West Bengal Government has covered all NC/PC habitations in 1999 CAP list, they can utilize higher percentage (%) of ARWSP funds for quality purposes on the basis of 75:25 funding pattern between the Central and State Government.

Sex detemining clinics

4724. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the misuse of Ultrasound Clinics and Genetic Centres for sex-determination tests; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to check such misuse and ensure strict implementation of the law against sex selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There are 26199 units having ultrasound registered in the country under the Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

The Implementation of the PNDT Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State, District as well as Sub-district levels in some States/UTs. Appropriate Authorities are empowered with the powes of Civil Court for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violations of